

# Comparison of Stereotypes regarding Tourette Syndrome and Schizophrenia

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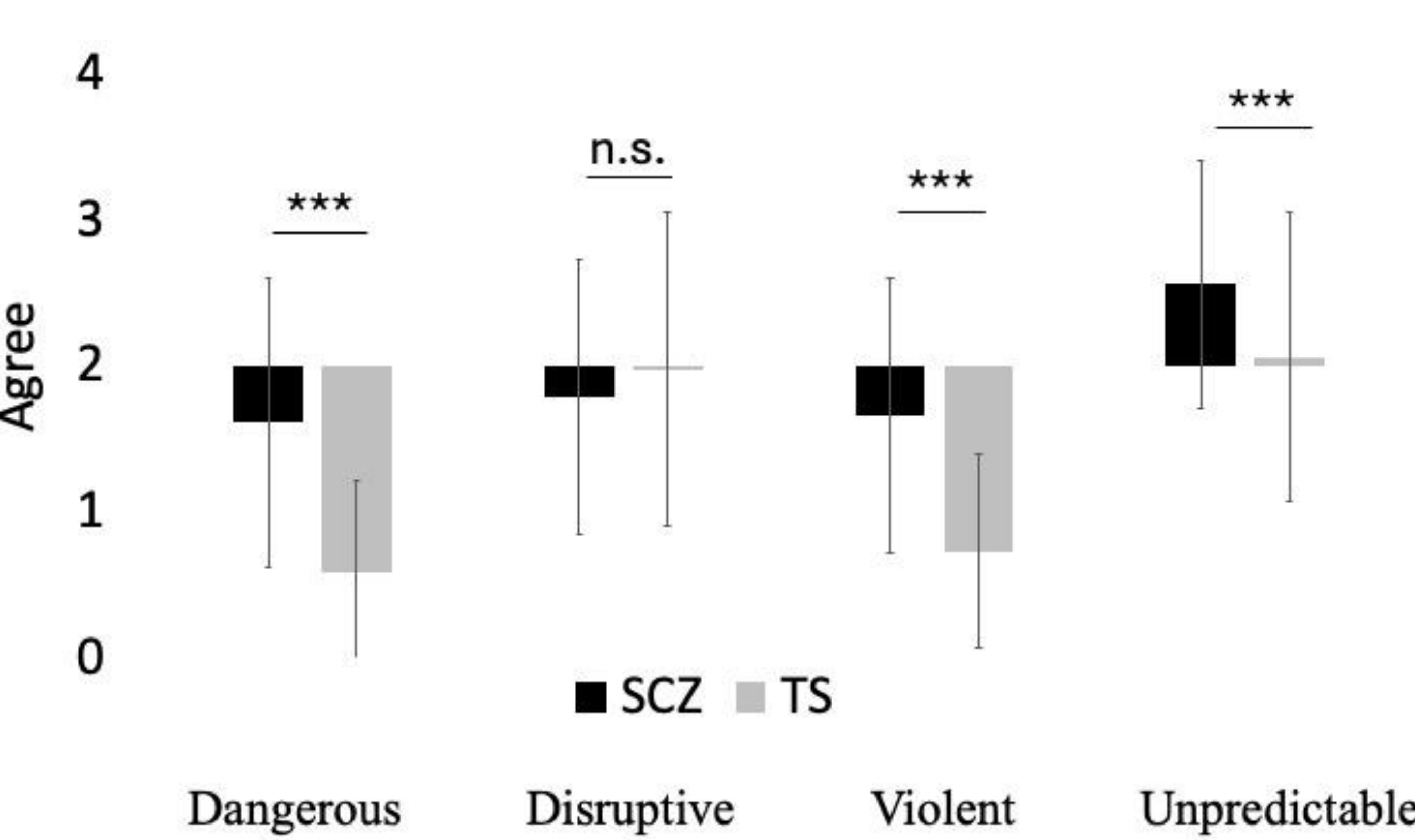
## Theoretical Introduction

Psychiatric disorders are often associated stigma, especially disorders, such as „Schizophrenia“ and „Tourette Syndrome (TS)“ (Valery & Prouteau, 2020). Subjective stigma is associated with a lower likelihood to seek help (Doll et al., 2021).

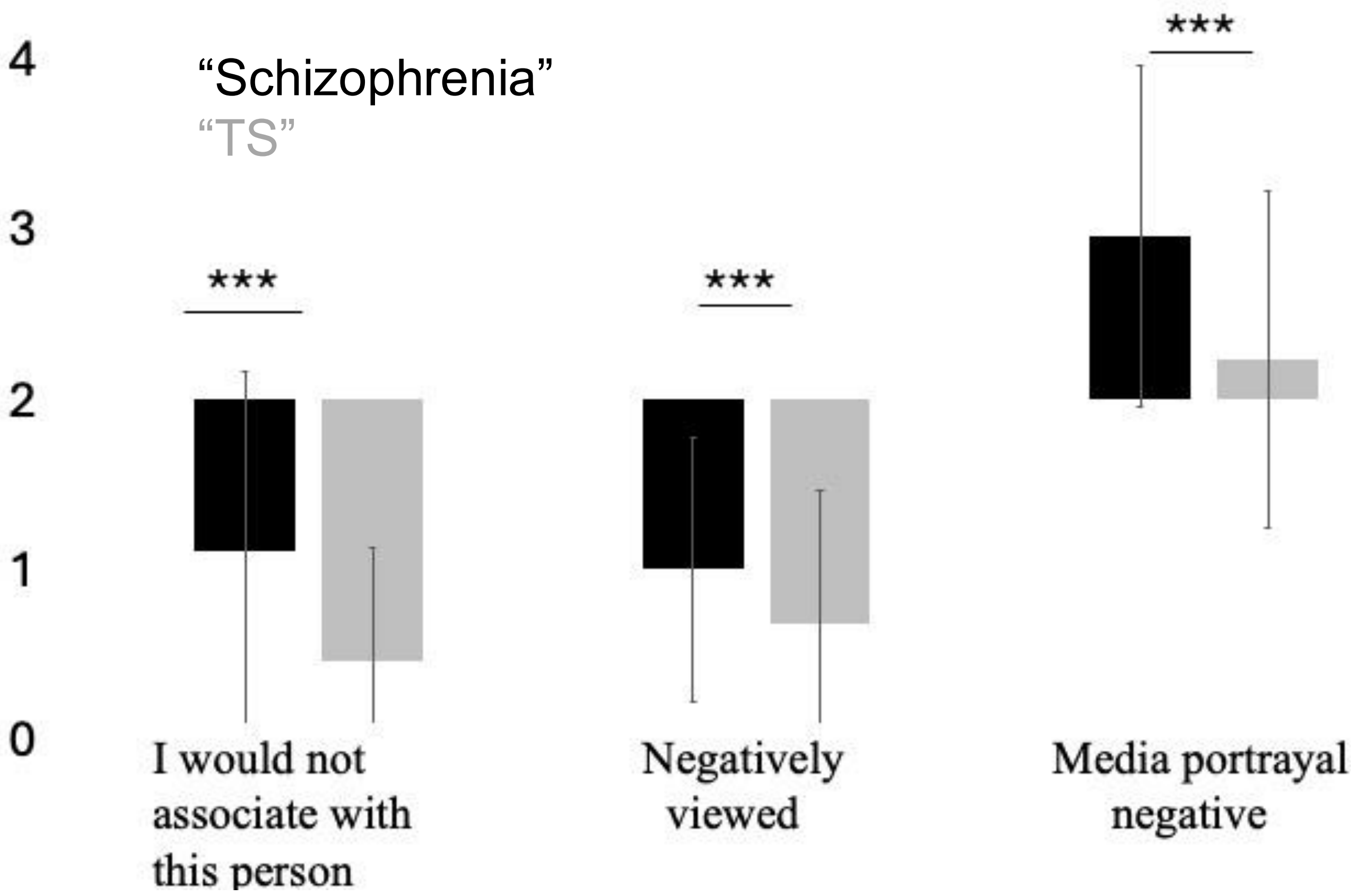
## Methods

- N = 128 participants filled out an online questionnaire. N = 28 were excluded because they took less than 3 minutes to fill it out, or because they reported that they did not know what Schizophrenia or TS were.
- The analyses were conducted in n = 100 participants (n=76 female, n=23 male, n=1 prefer not to say; Age= 29.38 +/- 15.36).
- Data were collected on “Prolific”.
- Frequent stereotypes about Schizophrenia and TS were identified in a literature search and were turned into items on a 5-point Likert scale, ranging from 0 (strongly disagree) to 4 (strongly agree) with a neutral mid-point (2 = neither agree nor disagree).
- Participants were also asked how much time they spent on social media daily and how they thought Schizophrenia and TS were presented in the media.
- All results were corrected for multiple testing.

## Results



People with Schizophrenia and TS were not on average viewed as dangerous (Agree / strongly agree: 15%; 0%), disruptive (22%; 39%) or violent (14%; 0%). People with Schizophrenia were viewed as less predictable than people with TS (60%; 41%).



Participants reported thinking that Schizophrenia was more negatively portrayed in the media than TS.

Overall, 19% of the sample believed that TS was mainly characterized by swearing.

Tabelle 1. Predictors for viewing people with Schizophrenia negatively

	B	Beta	t	p
Constant	22.99		5.13	.000
Age	0.05	0.13	1.14	.256
Gender	-1.61	-0.14	-1.37	.175
Daily media use	-0.22	-0.08	-0.67	.506
Frequency of negative Stereotypes in the media	-0.73	-0.09	-0.90	.373
Belief that media had an influence on one's perception	-1.82	-0.34	-3.41	.001

A negative view of Schizophrenia was predicted by the belief taht social media influenced one's belief about Schizophrenia.

## Discussion

The diagnoses „Schizophrenia“ and „Tourette Syndrome“ were not viewed particularly negatively by this sample. People with TS were viewed as less likely to be violent and dangerous than people with Schizophrenia. Furthermore, only a minority assumed that swearing was the main symptom in patients with TS. Participants believed that Schizophrenia was portrayed significantly more negatively in the media than TS and believed that this influenced their on perception of Schizophrenia.

## References

Valery KM, Prouteau A. Schizophrenia stigma in mental health professionals and associated factors: A systematic review. *Psychiatry Res.* 2020;290:113068.

Doll CM, Michel C, Rosen M, Osman N, Schimmelmann BG, Schultze-Lutter F. Predictors of help-seeking behaviour in people with mental health problems: a 3-year prospective community study. *BMC Psychiatry.* 2021;21(1):432.